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DIRECTORATE OF
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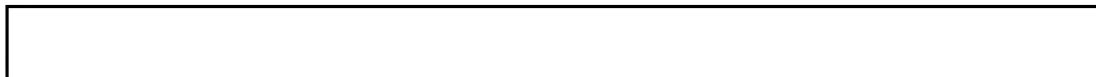


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USSR-EC: CEMA may open office in Brussels. (Page 3)



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USSR-EC: The Council for Economic Mutual Assistance (CEMA) is considering the establishment of an office in Brussels as part of its effort to cooperate more closely with the EC, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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As late as the Prague Warsaw Pact meeting in January, Brezhnev was still advocating coordinated bilateral dealings with the EC, [REDACTED]

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Since then the Soviets may have concluded that separate approaches to the EC countries to divide the EC as a unit had reached a dead end. They may also perceive that they can use East European desires for relations with the EC to keep their CEMA partners in line by channeling such relations through CEMA instrumentalities. Brezhnev's trade union speech of 20 March leaned toward this approach with its mention of the "existing situation" in Western Europe and the "realities" in Eastern Europe.

How the Community might react to the opening of a CEMA office in Brussels cannot be judged until more particulars of Soviet intentions are known.

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While there would be little or no objection to a CEMA information office--which could be taken as a welcome sign of further "recognition" of the EC--any CEMA attempt to have credentials accepted by the Community could raise problems. Thus far, the Community continues to reject any equating of the Eastern bloc with the integration movement in Western Europe.

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